



San Diego Unified School District

Fact Sheet

California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)

State law requires all students in California public schools to pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) to receive a high school diploma. State law passed in 1999 (Education Code sections 60850 and 68051) authorized the development and implementation of the CAHSEE. The purpose of the CAHSEE is to improve student achievement in high school and ensure that students who graduate from high school can demonstrate that they have met state content standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics, adopted by the State Board of Education.

Students who do not pass the CAHSEE in tenth grade have two additional opportunities to retake the exam during eleventh grade and three opportunities in twelfth grade. Only the part(s) not passed must be taken again. In addition, school districts are required by law to provide supplemental instruction aligned to state academic content standards for students who do not pass the exam. SDUSD provides these services through regular classroom instruction as well as through after-school and summer school classes.

SDUSD Performance

- ❖ As of May 2006: 94% of SDUSD students in the class of 2006 and 86% of the students in the class of 2007 had passed the English Language Arts portion of the CAHSEE
- ❖ As of May 2006: 93% of SDUSD students in the class of 2006 and 86% of the students in the class of 2007 had passed the Mathematics portion of the CAHSEE

What the CAHSEE Tests

The CAHSEE is divided into two parts: English Language Arts and Mathematics. The questions address important state content standards that a High School Exit Examination Standards Panel, appointed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, felt students should master to graduate from high school. The English Language Arts part of the CAHSEE addresses state content standards through Grade 10. It consists of multiple-choice questions and a writing task. The reading portion of the exam covers vocabulary, informational reading, and reading literature. The mathematics portion of the test addresses state standards from Grades 6 through 8, including algebra. It consists of multiple-choice questions that cover number sense, algebra and functions, measurement and geometry, and probability and statistics.

All students that have not passed CAHSEE by the end of grade 12 are encouraged to continue their education and avail themselves to all remediation opportunities, including those the district makes available for intensive instruction and services after grade twelve.

Parents and students have a right to submit a Uniform Complaint if they believe their needs are not being met. A copy of the form is available at school sites or at the district Office of General Counsel located at 4100 Normal Street, Room 2148, San Diego, CA 92103. A copy may also be downloaded from <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cp/uc>.

If students/parents have questions and/or concerns regarding the availability of the additional instruction, please contact Vercie Carmonjohnson in the Office of the Assistant Superintendent of High Schools at (619) 725-7238 or via E-mail at vcarmonjohnson@sandi.net